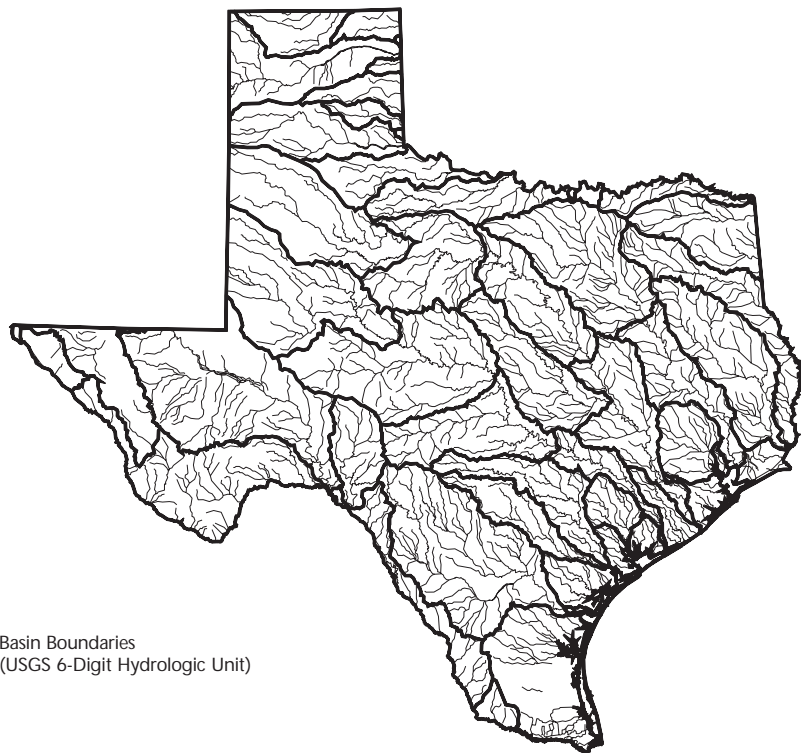


# Texas



— Basin Boundaries  
(USGS 6-Digit Hydrologic Unit)

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## Surface Water Quality

About 91% of the surveyed stream miles fully support aquatic life uses, 3% partially support these uses, and 5% do not support aquatic life uses. Swimming is impaired in about 27% of the surveyed rivers and streams. The most common pollutants degrading rivers and streams are bacteria, metals, and oxygen-depleting substances. Major sources of pollution include municipal sewage treatment plants, unknown sources, agricultural runoff, and urban runoff.

In reservoirs, 91% of the surveyed surface acres fully support aquatic life uses, 5% partially support these uses, and 4% do not support aquatic life uses. Ninety-seven percent of the surveyed lake acres fully support swimming. The most common problems in reservoirs are metals, low dissolved oxygen, and elevated bacteria concentrations. Major sources that contributed to nonsupport of uses include unknown sources, atmospheric deposition, natural sources (such as high temperature and shallow conditions), municipal sewage treatment plants, and industrial point sources.

The leading problem in estuaries is bacteria from unknown sources that contaminate shellfish beds. Sixty-one percent of the surveyed estuarine waters fully support shellfishing use, 36% partially support this use, and 4% do not support shellfishing.

## Ground Water Quality

About 41% of the municipal water is obtained from ground water sources in Texas. Identified ground water contaminant sources include storage tanks, surface impoundments, landfills, septic systems, and natural sources. The most commonly reported ground water contaminants from human activities are gasoline, diesel, and other petroleum products. Less commonly reported contaminants include volatile organic compounds and pesticides. The degradation of ground water quality from natural sources probably has a greater effect than do all anthropogenic sources combined.

## Programs to Restore Water Quality

The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) launched a basin approach to water resource management with the Clean Rivers Program (CRP). The CRP is a first step in the development of a long-term, comprehensive and integrated geographic management approach aimed at improving coordination of natural resource functions in the agency. The basin approach will provide a framework for identifying problems, involving stakeholders, and integrating actions. The basin approach also allows for the use of risk-based targeting to prioritize issues and better allocate finite public resources.

## Programs to Assess Water Quality

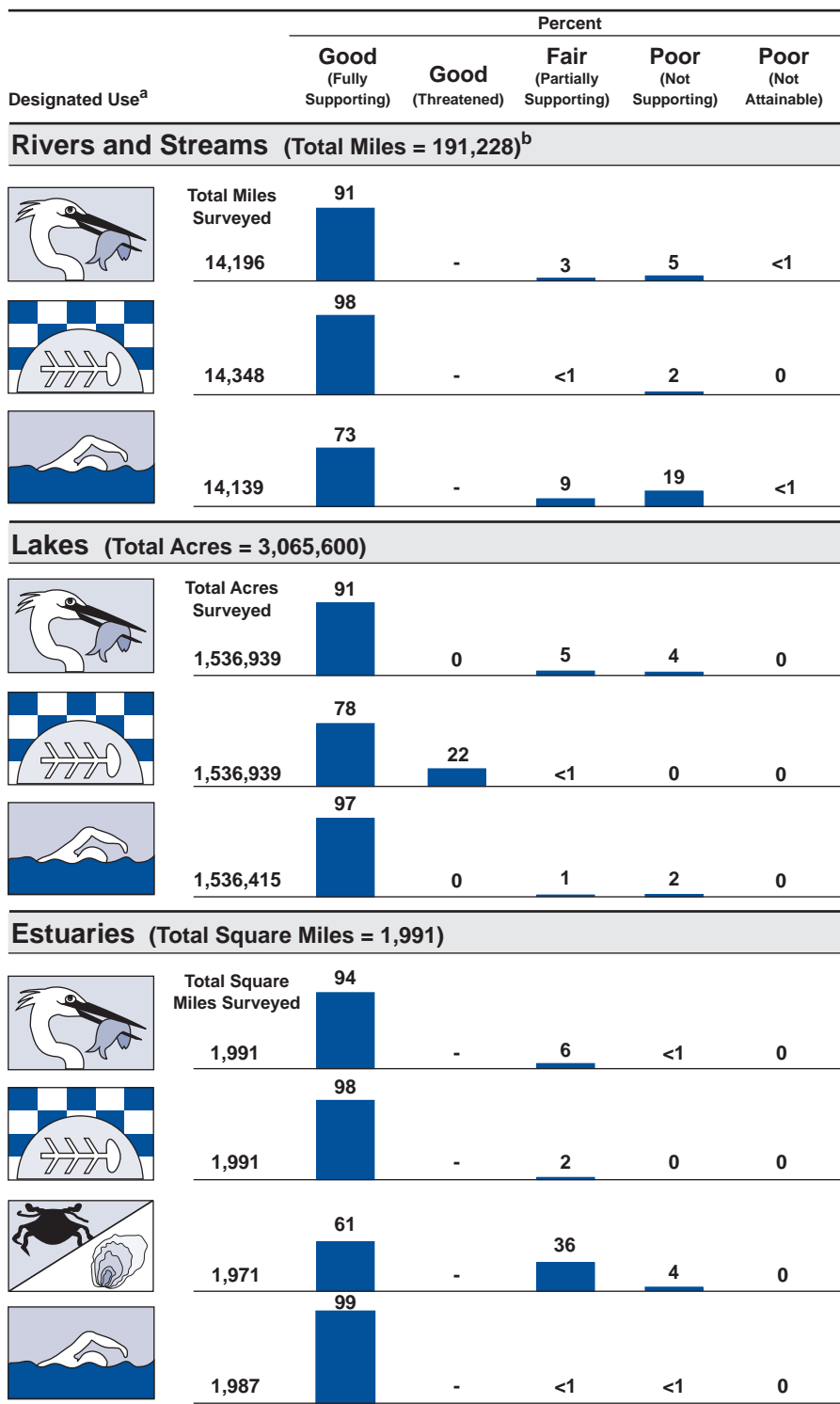
The TNRCC samples about 450 fixed stations as part of its Surface Water Quality Monitoring Program (SWQMP). The TNRCC samples different parameters and varies the frequency of sampling at each site to satisfy different needs. The TNRCC also conducts intensive surveys to evaluate potential impacts from point source dischargers during low flow conditions and special studies to investigate specific sources and pollutants. About 3,000 citizens also perform volunteer environmental monitoring in the Texas Watch Program.

– Not reported in a quantifiable format or unknown.

<sup>a</sup> A subset of Texas' designated uses appear in this figure. Refer to the State's 305(b) report for a full description of the State's uses.

<sup>b</sup> Includes nonperennial streams that dry up and do not flow all year.

## Individual Use Support in Texas



Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.